



Jeannette P. Tamayo - Regional Director - Economic Development Administration -U.S. Department of Commerce's

Jeannette P. Tamayo holds the position of Regional Director of the Chicago Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), which provides grant funds to economically distressed communities and leads economic development initiatives nationally. The region encompasses the upper Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. She joined the EDA in 2009 as Chicago Regional Counsel and assumed the helm as Regional Director in October 2011. Ms. Tamayo also served on the Executive Committee of the Chicago Federal Executive Board and is a past Chair. In August 2017, she was selected by the US Office of Personnel Management as the FEB National Chair of the Year. In 2016, she received the US Department of Commerce's Gold Award for co-leading business process improvements in federal grants.

Prior to joining the EDA, Ms. Tamayo held senior executive, legal and management positions in government and non-profit agencies. She has served as counsel for Legal Aid Chicago, Administrator for Employment and Training of the former Illinois Department of Public Aid, Deputy Chief Counsel of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, General Counsel of the Chicago Crime Commission, and Interim Administrator and Deputy Chief Counsel of the Illinois Gaming Board. In these roles, she helped revamp public aid programs to make them relevant, working with community colleges to design specialized curricula to help the long-term unemployed and teen parents to transition from public dependency to self-sufficiency through education and job training. She helped organize an experiential educational tour and college lecture to highlight the inter-relationship between economic development and developmental challenges faced by high crime/low-income communities as well as another on the economics and trajectory of opioid abuse. As an attorney or Board member, Ms. Tamayo has worked with community non-profit organizations by assisting with matters ranging from new venture formation to establishing new programs or expanding community-based programs. Ms. Tamayo has focused on identifying opportunities for transformative change and both legal and programmatic strategies to make a difference in low income communities.

She holds a Bachelors of Art in Latin American Studies, with a minor in Women's Studies, from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. In 1985, she received a Juris Doctor degree from DePaul University College of Law.

Ms. Tamayo is licensed before the Illinois Supreme Court, the Northern District of Illinois and the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. She was appointed as a Special Assistant Attorney General.

Ms. Tamayo is a native Spanish speaker.